RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT A
REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE

WHEREAS, the average surface temperature on Earth has been increasing steadily, with the ten
warmest years ever recorded all occurring since 1998; and

WHEREAS, climate scientists overwhelmingly agree that an increase in greenhouse gases in the
atmosphere—carbon dioxide (CO₂) in particular—is causing the increase in global temperature;
and

WHEREAS, humans burning carbon-based fossil fuels—coal, oil, and natural gas—is the
primary cause of the substantial and continuing increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, it is predicted that by 2100 the average global temperature will be 2°F to 11.5°F
higher than now depending on the level of future greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, climate change caused by global warming-related greenhouse gas emissions
including CO₂ already is leading to large-scale problems including ocean acidification and rising
sea levels; more frequent, extreme, and damaging weather events such as heat waves, storms,
heavy rainfall and flooding, and droughts; more frequent and intense wildfires; disrupted
ecosystems affecting biodiversity and food production; and an increase in heat-related deaths;
and

WHEREAS, we are approaching a dangerous threshold whereby, if it is crossed, humans will no
longer be able to influence the course of future global warming, as tropical forests, peat bogs,
permafrost and the oceans switch from absorbing carbon to releasing it; and

WHEREAS, the relentless increase in global atmospheric CO₂ concentration shows that broader,
more powerful policies are needed to supplement local and regional efforts to reduce emissions;
and

WHEREAS, burning fossil fuels also causes human health impacts by releasing pollutants that
cause lung disease, respiratory illnesses, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of CO₂ emissions are not
included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are borne directly and
indirectly by all Americans and global citizens; and

WHEREAS, to begin to correct this market failure, the United States Congress can enact a
national carbon fee on fossil fuels, based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned; and
WHEREAS, for efficient administration, a fee on fossil fuels can be charged once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee starting at a relatively low rate and increasing steadily over future years is a market-based solution that is designed to minimally disrupt the economy while sending a clear and predictable price signal to businesses to develop and use non-carbon-based energy resources; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee would incentivize manufacturers, businesses, and consumers throughout the economy to produce and use less fossil fuel, and would spur investment in and deployment of clean energy resources and energy efficient processes, without favoring any particular technology, and would thereby reduce CO2 emissions to the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, job creation from development of clean energy and energy efficiency businesses would be expected to exceed job creation from further development of fossil fuel businesses; and

WHEREAS, according to Citizen’s Climate Lobby, if 100% of carbon fee revenue is returned to households in equal shares, approximately two-thirds of Americans will break even or come out ahead, as their dividends match or exceed direct and indirect price increases due to the fee, protecting lower and middle income households; and

WHEREAS, border adjustments—carbon content-based tariffs on products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing, and refunds to our exporters of carbon fees paid—should maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global markets; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee may be implemented quickly and efficiently, and respond to the urgency of the climate crisis, because the federal government already has in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and enforce the fee, and already collects fees from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

WHEREAS, continued widespread use of fossil fuels and global climate change pose a present and growing risk to the health and welfare of Oakland residents and to its economy, and a U.S. national, revenue-neutral carbon fee will significantly mitigate those risks and promote health and prosperity in our City, region, and the world; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council urges the United States Congress to enact without delay a revenue-neutral fee on carbon-based fossil fuels.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \[\text{JUN 06} 2017\]

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL, WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLLEN, KALB, KAPLAN AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City of Oakland, California